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SUBJECT Reorganization of the Political Police  
in Saxony-Anhalt

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 Introduction. The political police of the Soviet Zone is at present  
25X1 undergoing a reorganization from which it is likely to emerge a  
25X1 semi-autonomous entity subservient only to the directives of the  
25X1 Soviet control element. There are indications that the new organiza-  
tion will be named "Verwaltung zum Schutze des Volkseigentums" and  
that it will be headed by Erich Mielke, former Vice-President of the  
German Administration of the Interior. The following information  
serves to illustrate organizational moves designed to extract the  
existing organs of the old political police (known as K-5) from the  
framework of state police headquarters in Saxony-Anhalt and the  
methods used to liquidate the former political police unit prepar-  
atory to establishing the new organization.

25X1 Background of the Reorganization. The old K-5 in Saxony-Anhalt was  
25X1 headed by Oberkommissar Berger, a Communist and member of the VVN.  
25X1 Among his assistants was Oberkommissar Kurt Berlin

Crime statistics prepared by K-5 were invariably incorrect. A statis-  
tical survey performed at the request of the K-5 official  
in charge of statistics brought to light 2,000 cases not included in  
the official figures. Major discrepancies resulted through the  
practice of reporting all cases to the Soviet Komendatura. In most  
instances the Soviet agency concerned then took over the case alto-  
gether, the suspect and pertinent files being transferred to its  
custody. Frequently, however, files that had been turned over could  
not be located, the Russians simply denying that they had ever received  
them. As a result the suspects affected were kept in prison indefi-  
nitely. Those cases which had not been given to a Soviet agency for  
action were passed on to the German prosecutor, who customarily re-  
turned about 80% because no cause had been shown why the person in  
question should be brought to trial. In order to dispose of the  
backlog of cases, training of the K-5 operatives was initiated, but  
it resulted in even more extensive delays and again prolonging the  
incarceration of K-5 suspects. As of 20 October 1949 it was esti-  
mated that all cases could be disposed of by the end of the year.

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1. In February 1949 the German Administration of the Interior issued a structural plan of Hauptabteilung K in which Abteilung D was to be concerned with the functions of K-5 (protection of the democratic order, investigation of sabotage, illegal possession of fire arms, and so forth). This plan was sent to the police headquarters of the East German states for their guidance in reorganizing the criminal police branches in accordance with the GAI precept. At the end of February 1949 the GAI suddenly withdrew this plan and issued instructions that all copies were to be returned.
2. In the first week of March K-5 was removed from the control of the chief of Abteilung K of the state police headquarters and placed directly under K-5 of the GAI.
3. On 18 September 1949 at a conference attended by the chiefs of the Bezirke of Abteilung K of state police headquarters of Saxony-Anhalt, its chief, Inspektor Richard Dombrowsky, officially declared that K-5 had been ordered dissolved and that "in view of the stabilization of political conditions, one could now dispense with K-5, thereby removing a source of unrest to the population". Those present accepted this pronouncement with the proper skepticism.
4. In August, however, K-5 had been returned to the control of the chief of Abteilung K for purposes of liquidation. [redacted] the order of the GAI dissolving K-5 was actually issued some time in August. [redacted] K-5 was to be liquidated by the end of September. All pending cases under SMA Directive 201 (denazification) were to be completed by that time. K-5, however, was unable to meet this deadline. In most cases the prosecutor refused to take action on the basis of K-5 reports on the ground that the facts presented would not sustain an indictment.
5. The transfer of personnel to the new organization was carried out under conditions of exceptional secrecy. Those officials slated for the new organization were suddenly relieved of their duties, turned over their files to their successors, usually late at night, and failed to report for duty the next morning. If questioned as to their future assignment, they either denied all knowledge or uniformly stated "im Ausendienst" (field duty).
6. Headquarters of the new political police of Saxony-Anhalt is located in Jaentzschstrasse, Halle/Saale, in the same building in which the Soviet prosecutor general has his offices. [redacted] this organization has in fact been placed under the control of the Soviet prosecutor. On the other hand, its members will, as heretofore, be paid by the Criminal Police and charged against its organizational strength. In all towns in which there are district police headquarters (Kreispolizeiamter) the new political police will have its branch offices, always, however, located in a separate building. Personnel posted with headquarters and branch offices will be drawn from among trustworthy communists now serving with the Criminal Police as a standing rule no transfers will be authorized from one office to another if both are situated in the same locality. This rule has necessarily resulted in some major personnel changes.
7. The old K-5 organization of Saxony-Anhalt was the custodian of the Nazi membership file card system. (It also kept the personal files of all former employees of the Siebel Aircraft manufacturing plant in Halle/Saale.) Names of all persons under consideration for government positions were checked against K-5 file cards. In those instances in which refugees from ceded areas in the East were involved, the assistance of the information service of the SED, which can check in the countries of origin, was enlisted. Economic crimes, though handled by Bezirke 3, were turned over to K-5 or investigated jointly with K-5 if they had a political background. The vetting and political

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supervision of police personnel is the responsibility of the Polit-  
Kultur Section, but specific investigations were entrusted to K-5.

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8. The following persons are known to have been assigned to Headquarters  
of the political police in Halle/Saale:

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a. Polizeiinspekteur Warti Weikert

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b. Polizei Kommandeur Otto Diehl -- Deputy chief in charge of opera-  
tions.

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c. Oberkommissar Anton Harleth -- Was formerly chief of Criminal  
Police headquarters in Magdeburg.

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d. Gustav Ritter

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e. Oberkommissar (fnu) Schmidt -- Served formerly with the old K-5  
where he worked on special assignments.

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f. Kommissar Otto Schuessler

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g. Frau Schniedy -- Chief switchboard operator

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h. Frau Strutz -- Secretary. Transferred from the Criminal Police  
office in Salzwedel.

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i. Polizeirat (fnu) Lohse -- Formerly chief of Criminal Police head-  
quarters in Dessau.

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Comment: The original of a directive issued by Abteilung X,  
of the Landespolizeibehörde of Saxony-Anhalt, dated 14 February 1949,  
giving the new structure of the Criminal Police in the Soviet Zone  
failed to make mention of Section 8 which led us to believe that this  
section had been kept open for K-5.

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